

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 903

By Parkinson

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend the ministry of the Reverend Robert Earl Jones, Sr., and his wife, First Lady Harriet Noel Jones, at Hill Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Memphis.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those individuals who have answered a divine call to the ministry and who have served with dedication, vigor, and enthusiasm to perform God's work for their congregations and their communities; and

WHEREAS, two such individuals are the Reverend Robert Earl Jones, Sr., and his spouse, Harriet Noel Jones, who serve as Pastor and First Lady, respectively, to the congregation of Hill Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, located in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, the Rev. and First Lady Jones are native Memphians who were raised in the very church which they now lead with a dynamic, Christ-centered, and thriving ministry; and

WHEREAS, having assumed the pastorate at the young age of twenty-six, the Rev. Jones has been at the helm of Hill Chapel Missionary Baptist Church for twenty-eight years, being only the fifth pastor to lead the congregation of this mighty church since it was founded in 1907; and

WHEREAS, both Joneses were educated in the Memphis public schools, Rev. Jones graduated from Northside High School and Tennessee State University, from which he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in history. As a student, First Lady Jones made impressive academic achievements and graduated from Memphis State University in a short three years with a degree in microbiology; and

WHEREAS, under the reverend's guidance, the ministry at Hill Chapel has experienced phenomenal growth, with membership increasing from 200 in 1984 to more than 4,000

currently, and Rev. Jones' commitment to excellence coupled with precise attention to the smallest detail continues to propel the church's ministry to ever higher dimensions; and

WHEREAS, with spiritual growth that has exceeded the numbers, the Rev. and First Lady Jones have encouraged and accompanied the congregation as it has embraced ministries of traditional and creative worship within the church, even as they have ventured out to minister to fellow Christians as well as the unchurched throughout the community, endeavoring always to meet people at their point of greatest worldly and spiritual need; and

WHEREAS, while a highly accomplished religious teacher and leader in the local, state, and national Missionary Baptist congresses and conventions, Rev. Jones' service to his fellow man has reached into the secular world, where he is soundly guided by the Golden Rule. He is a surrogate parent for the Memphis City Schools, serves on the Board of Directors for Youth Villages, and was appointed to the Tennessee Human Rights Commission by former Governor Bredesen in 2004; and

WHEREAS, the submission and obedience to the will of God that the Rev. and First Lady Jones evince to the good people of Hill Chapel Missionary Baptist Church is a heralded blessing that has allowed God to show favor upon this century-old fellowship and keep it squarely and solidly grounded on the path of righteousness which has been laid forth over the ages; and

WHEREAS, the godliness and goodness of the Joneses' lineage is coming forth in the lives of their three children, Necole Angelique, Camille Yvonne, and Rev. Robert Earl Jones II; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is most proud of men and women of faith who are humble in service, spiritual in mind, and determined to do the work of the Lord, and the work of the Rev. Robert and First Lady Harriet Jones surely makes them those of whom we can be most proud; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize the remarkable religious leadership provided to Hill

Chapel Missionary Baptist Church by the Reverend Robert Earl Jones, Sr., and First Lady Harriet Noel Jones, and we commend their consistent display of Christian servant leadership within their church and beyond. We extend to them our best wishes for continued success and abundant blessings in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.